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HOUSE RESOLUTION 246
By Walker

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Reginald and Virginia Rowell for their significant contributions to agriculture in Cumberland County and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause in their deliberations to pay tribute to those individuals who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as leaders in their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, Reginald and Virginia Rowell, owners of Rowells Orchard in Crossville, are two such estimable people who evince the greatest commitment, ability, and integrity in all their professional endeavors as farmers; and

WHEREAS, a native of Vermont, Reginald Rowell is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where he studied dairy farming methods; Virginia Rowell was born in Grassy Cove to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kemmer, and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Reginald and Virginia met and fell in love while Reginald was stationed at the Prisoner of War Camp located in Tennessee during World War II; the happy couple were

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married in Grassy Cove on December 25, 1944 and are the proud and loving parents of one son and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, the Rowells moved to Vermont, where Reginald Rowell operated a creamery business, which produced cheese and butter in 750 pound barrels; and

WHEREAS, the Rowells returned to Crossville, Tennessee in 1950 and established a motel located on US Highway 70 East in 1951; benefiting from the through-traffic of the highway, their hotel prospered until the opening of Interstate 40, which redirected the majority of their business; and

WHEREAS, around 1968, Reginald and Virginia Rowell realized that they needed to change their livelihood and decided to start an apple farm; today their thriving business, Rowells Orchard, has about 3500 trees and 30 different apple varieties, including Lodi, Mustu, Winesap, and Golden Delicious; and

WHEREAS, during the time they were operating the motel, Virginia Rowell would buy apples by the bushel from the University of Tennessee Experiment Station in Crossville; Mr. T.R. Gilmore, a horticulturist at the station, would answer her questions about the type of apples she was buying and how they were grown; Mr. Gilmore and, later, Dr. Charles Mullins, were an invaluable source of information and encouragement to the Rowells in the early stages of their apple farm; and

WHEREAS, Rowells Orchard is truly a family owned and operated business; Reginald Rowell concentrates on the farm's production and Virginia Rowell focuses on the promotion and retail of their delectable apples; the majority of the farm's labor is done by family members, including their son and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, at one time the Rowells sold their apples wholesale to markets, such as the White Store, but now the Rowell farm has its own grading and packaging equipment and sale room located on the farm; and

WHEREAS, from July through December, regular customers from surrounding towns, as well as tourists visiting Cumberland County, enjoy shopping at Rowells Orchard; gracious hosts, the Rowells treat their customers like family, providing tours of their magnificent orchards and sharing recipes and information on apple varieties, which Virginia has gathered and printed onto leaflets; and

WHEREAS, the Rowells are astute business people who continue to change and expand their farming and business practices, seeking to further develop their apple farm and store and remain current with advancements in the agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, through their extraordinary work ethic, dedication, and ingenuity, Reginald and Virginia Rowell have distinguished themselves as leaders in the agriculture industry; loyal friends of farming, their honorable farming and business practices are in the finest tradition of the farming way of life and the rich agriculture history of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this legislative body to recognize the Rowells for their considerable contributions to agriculture in Cumberland County and this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Reginald and Virginia Rowell, the owners of Rowells Orchard, for their hard work and commitment to agriculture in Tennessee, recognize them as true friends of farming, commend them on their meritorious service to Cumberland County, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.